



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Riverside Reaches Out to Sister City Sendai, Japan Devastated by 8.9 Earthquake and Tsunami Wave

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – A magnitude 8.9 earthquake — the biggest in modern Japanese history — hit the island nation's eastern coast Friday afternoon, unleashing a 23-foot tsunami that swept boats, cars, buildings and tons of debris miles inland.

Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge said, “Riverside sends its prayers and thoughts to Japan and especially to its Sister City Sendai. This beautiful city and its people have been our partners for over 50 years. The City of Riverside stands ready to provide any assistance requested by the federal agencies coordinating the earthquake relief and support efforts”.

If you wish to help, the American Red Cross is accepting donations. You may donate via the internet or by phone at riversidecounty.redcross.org – click “Donate” and then “Japan Earthquake” or you may call 1-800-RED CROSS.

If you wish to locate family or friends, visit
<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>

Family in Japan requiring assistance should contact the Department of State at:
JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov or by phone at 1-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420 JAPAN, Phone 03-3224-5000, Fax: 03-3505-1862. *Note: telecommunications are impacted in Japan and may not be fully functioning.*

For updated information on travel and security in Japan, call the Department of State toll free at 1-888-407-4747.

The Fire Department would like to remind everyone at this time of the importance of preparing for all types of emergencies. Taking steps now will go a long way to returning our community to normalcy following an emergency.

1. **Get a Kit** – get a disaster preparedness kit to last your family 5-10 days
2. **Make a Family Emergency Plan** – make a plan on what actions your family should take in an emergency

3. **Be Informed** – be informed on the hazards which could affect you and what safe actions to take in response to an emergency
4. **Get Involved** – get involved in neighborhood emergency preparedness or volunteer with an emergency support organization

Additional information on emergency preparedness may be found on the city's emergency preparedness website at: <http://www.readyriverside.com>.